

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions:

1. (Original) An actuator having a recessed, movable electrode, the actuator comprising:
 - (a) a substrate including a stationary electrode attached thereto;
 - (b) a resilient structural layer including a first end fixed with respect to the substrate, a second end suspended over the substrate, and a surface having a recess formed therein; and
 - (c) a movable electrode attached within the recess whereby the movable electrode is separated from the stationary electrode by a gap.
2. (Previously Presented) The actuator of claim 1, wherein the movable electrode is attached within the recess of the resilient structural layer whereby a first portion of the movable electrode is separated from the substrate by a distance less than the distance separating a second portion of the movable electrode from the substrate.
3. (Original) A microscale, electrostatically actuated switch having a recessed, movable electrode, the switch comprising:
 - (a) a substrate including a stationary electrode and a stationary contact attached thereto;
 - (b) a resilient structural layer including a first end fixed with respect to the substrate, a second end suspended over the substrate, and a surface having a recess formed therein;
 - (c) a movable electrode attached within the recess whereby the movable electrode is separated from the stationary electrode by a first gap; and
 - (d) a movable contact attached to the structural layer whereby the movable contact is separated from the stationary electrode by a second gap.
4. (Previously Presented) The actuator of claim 3, wherein the movable electrode is attached at the underside of the recess of the resilient structural layer whereby a first portion of the movable electrode is separated from the substrate by a distance less than the distance separating a second portion of the movable electrode from the substrate.

5. (Original) A method of implementing an actuation function in an actuator having a recessed, movable electrode, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an actuator having a recessed, movable electrode, the actuator comprising:

(i) a substrate including a stationary electrode attached thereto;

(ii) a resilient structural layer including a first end fixed with respect to the substrate, a second end suspended over the substrate, and a surface having a recess formed therein; and

(iii) a movable electrode attached at the underside of the recess whereby the movable electrode is separated from the stationary electrode by a gap;

(b) applying a voltage between the stationary electrode and the movable electrode to electrostatically couple the movable electrode with the stationary electrode across the gap, whereby the resilient structural layer is deflected towards the substrate.

6-7. (Canceled)